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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Tour of China by East German Art Ensemble

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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(Staatliche Volkskunst-Ensemble) (SVE) was sent by East Germany to China as part of a cultural exchange between the two countries. There were about 200 persons in the group, including a symphony orchestra, a mixed chorus, and a dance group. The group, which was selected on the basis of its size and artistic quality, had a purely cultural mission; so far as is known, no member had a special mission, and at no time during the tour were the members of the group separated. Gifts were exchanged by the Chinese and East Germans, and the East German delegates were surprised at the awarmth of their welcome. They were deluged with gifts and with festive dinners given by admiring Chinese in the various cities.

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2. Many Russians, both men and women, dressed in civilian clothes, were observed in Tientsin. Allegedly they are specialists involved in constructing factories, and their relations with the Chinese are unknown. In Peking there is a hotel for foreign guests, the Lobing Hotel, which was constructed in 1946-1947. A member of the touring delegation met several Germans there who were specialists and engineers engaged in setting up machinery.

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3. The SVE trip to China materialized after many postponements.

4. The following are personnel of the Staatliche Volkskunst-Ensemble which toured China:

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